Invoking the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 (POTO), a case FIR No. 218/2001 was registered at Police Station, Safakadal (Srinagar). The house in question was sealed as the initial investigation led to the belief that the hide-out had been constructed out of the proceeds of terrorism. Upon a further legal examination of the issue, it was found that only a part of the house, being used as a hide-out of terrorists, could be reasonably believed to have been constructed out of the proceeds of terrorism and not the entire house. It was, therefore, decided that the seizure of the house was not warranted in this case and the house was accordingly restored to the family.

The State Government has further informed that action has been taken to dispel fears and remove apprehensions voiced by a section of the public and political parties about the likely misuse of POTO.

(c) No, Sir.

Use of coal mine pit as ash pond

*414. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mines Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) of Coal India has given favourable report to NALCO, Angul, regarding use of coal mine pit as ash pond;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) is not giving permission for use of coal mine pit as ash pond; and

(c) by when a decision regarding use of coal mine pit as ash pond is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PAS WAN): (a) and (b) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) Angul, approached Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) for use of pits for ash filling. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) (Regional Institute No. VII) were entrusted by NALCO in April, 2001 the task of assessing voids available at Balanda opencast (OC) and Bharatpur South OC mines. CMPDIL submitted its report to NALCO in July, 2001 assessing the voids available for ash filling as under:—

Bharatpur South OC	-	Total void	-	13.3 million cum
Balanda OC	-	Total void	-	18.7 million cum

(c) Methodology of ash filling, environment aspects like assessment of leacheate from backfilled ash etc. are yet to be studied.